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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5444  
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 412  
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E.O. 12065: GS 2/16/85 (GLASSMAN JON D.) OR-P  
TAGS: MILI, CU, UR  
SUBJECT: (C) MIG23'S IN CUBA

1. C- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OFFICIAL MAGAZINE VERDE OLIVO (NUMBER 7/79), RECEIVED FEBRUARY 15, CARRIES SEVEN PAGE ARTICLE ENTITLED "THESE ARE THE MIG-23'S". ARTICLE CONAINS NUMEROUS PHOTOS, OF VARYING QUALITY, OF INTAKE RAMPS AND UNDERSIDE OF MIG-23F GROUND ATTACK AIRCRAFT NUMER 716-- INCLUDING CLEAR SHOTS OF BOM RACKS. WE PRESUME PURPOSE OF ARTICLE IS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT CUBAN GROUND ATTACK VERSIONS ARE MIG-23F, AND NOT MIG-23D (MIG 27).

3. ARTICLE CONCERNS PLAYA GIRON GUARDS AIR GRIGADE, WHICH, JUDGING FROM COLLATERAL DETAILS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE, IS LOCATED AT SAN ANTONIO DE LOS BANDOS AIR BASE. ONE PHOT IN ARTICLE SHOWS LINE-UP OF NINE MIG-23'S OF WHICH AT LEAST THREE AND POSSIBLY AS MANY AS EIGHT MAY BE GROUND ATTACK VERSIONS. (QUALITY OF PHOTO DETERIORATES IN BACKGROUND. FYI ARTICLE STATES THAT NINE MIG-23'S OF UNSPECIFIED TYPES -- THREE "TROIKAS" -- TOOK PART IN OVERFLIGHT OF HANAURY 2 MILITARY PARADE. END FYI.) INTERESTING DETAIL IS THAT ONLY INTERCEPTOR MODEL SHOWN (IN

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*BE Dorey*  
*John Saunders,*  
*What's the*  
*status of the*  
*MIG-23 paper?*

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FOREGROUND OF PHOTO) CARRIES NUMBER 701. REMAINING GROUND ATTACK VERSIONS THAT CAN BE DISTINGUISHED IN ARTICLE CARRY NUMBERS 712, 716, AND 719. (COMMENT: IF WE PRESUME NUMBERS ARE SEQUENTIAL AND FIRST NUMBER IS 701, THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS TWENTY-ONE MIG-23'S AT SAN ANTONIO DE LOS BANOS SINCE CUBAN ICAIC NEWSREEL --HAVANA 284 -- SHOWED TWO MIG-23 GROUND ATTACK VERSIONS, PROBABLY AT SAN ANTONIO, NUMBERED 720 AND 721. ALSO, IF IDENTIFIED GROUND ATTACK VERSIONS CARRY NUMBERS RUNNING AT LEAST FROM 712 TO 721, AND NUMBERING IS SEQUENTIAL, THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS TEN GROUND ATTACK VERSIONS AT SAN ANTONIO. BY SAME TOKEN, THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS ELEVEN INTERCEPTOR VERSIONS-- RUNNING FROM 701 TO 711.)

4. ARTICLE REFERS TO MIG-23'S AS "VARIABLE-GEOMETRY TACTICAL FIGHTER-BOMERS" AND MENTIONS TRAINING FOR INTERCEPTION, "PHOTO-STRAFING", AND "PHOTO-BOMBING". (COMMENT: WE PRESUME THAT "PHOTO-STRAFING" AND "PHOTO-BOMBING" REFERS TO USE OF ELECTRONIC/RADAR INSTRUMENTS IN EXECUTING GROUND ATTACK MISSIONS, RATHER THAN TO TAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHS.)

5. PILOTS MENTIONED IN ARTICLE ARE ALL CUBANS INCLUDING SQUADRON COMMANDER COLONEL RAFAEL DEL PINO, GUARDS CAPTAIN MARIO SIERRA GARCIA, GUARDS CAPTAIN MANUEL DE LOS SANTOS SOTOLONGO, GUARDS LIEUTENANT FERNANDO GARCIA ROJAS, GUARDS FIRST LIEUTENANT PEDRO LUIS COLMENERO LAUPEDO, PLUS TECHNICIAN LIEUTENANT JUAN MANUEL CAMPANI. NO SOVIETS ARE MENTIONED.

6. COPY OF VERDE OLIVO WILL BE SENT IN NEXT AVAILABLE HADUCH (WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21) TO DIA (ATTENTION DN-2D).  
LANE

END OF MESSAGE

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